

1.5 Cross-sectoral approach with other ministries

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Mechanisms and actors

Youth policy in Flanders is at a unique crossroads: it is a categorical policy theme, focused on one category of the population: children and young people. But it also crosses sectoral policy domains such as sports, culture, social policy, education, spatial planning, health, housing etc. So the youth policy in Flanders is a sectoral policy domain with a categorical character. It is envisaged that each ministry takes its own responsibilities and defines tasks linked to the implementation of specific goals within the Youth Policy Plan, while the Minister for Youth is in charge of coordinating the process and reporting on the Plan's implementation to the government.

Besides the Flemish Youth and Children's Rights Policy Plan, the Act on a renewed Flemish Youth and Children's Rights Policy envisages three more instruments of youth policy:

- **Impact study** of new legislation on children and youth (JoKER) – this specifies that any draft Act affecting the people under the age of 25 and submitted to the Flemish parliament has to be accompanied by a report regarding its impact on children and youth.
- **Contact points** for youth and children's rights and a coordinating administration – all bodies of the Flemish government have to appoint one staff member as the contact point for the youth policy. These individuals should be involved in the monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Youth Policy Plan and responsible for estimating the impact of the policy of their institution on young people. The Division Knowledge and Policy is the coordinating administration in all these matters.
- **Youth Progress Report** – a scientific report, to be produced every five years, describing the state of the youth in the Flemish community.